



# **FINAL FREE BASIC WATER POLICY**

**MARCH 2020**

FREE BASIC WATER

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## **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this document is to outline the Free Basic Water Policy for Sekhukhune District Municipality area of jurisdiction.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 As part of government' strategy to alleviate poverty in South Africa a policy for the provision of a free basic level of services has been introduced. In response to this commitment, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWA) commenced the implementation of Phase 1 of a national Free Basic Water strategy in February 2001. The Free Basic Water policy is not new to the South African water sector. Indeed, in terms of the Water Services Act 108 of 1997, provision was made for those people who cannot afford to pay for a basic water supply.

## **3. POLICY INTENTIONS**

- 3.1 The primary intention of the policy is to ensure that no one is completely denied access to a water supply because they are unable to pay for the service. Underlying this policy is the recognition that the supply of water at a 'basic' level assists in alleviating poverty, improves community health and frees women from time wasted on carrying water.

## **4. RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVIDING FREE BASIC SERVICES**

- 4.1 While national government has strongly promoted a free basic services initiative, with a view to alleviating poverty, it is local government that is constitutionally mandated to deliver water services. A Free Basic Water policy must therefore be implemented at the local level where services are rendered. The Sekhukhune District Municipality is a Water Service Authority and is responsible for the provision of FBW.

## **5. DEFINITIONS OF A 'BASIC' SUPPLY OF WATER**

- 5.1 The South African standard relating to a 'basic' level of water supply, sufficient to promote healthy living, is based on the internationally accepted standard of 25 litres per person per day. This amounts to 6000 litres per household per month, based on a household of 8 people. This quantity is regulated as part of the national strategy in terms of Section 9 and 10 of the Water Services Act of 1997.
- The Sekhukhune District Municipality adopts the above definition as the basis for this policy. In areas where the District is unable to provide the above amount due to infrastructure or water availability, then the possible quantity that can be provided less than 6kl/household per month will suffice until the municipality is in a position to supply the 6kl.

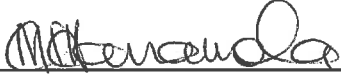
## **6. RECIPIENTS OF FREE BASIC WATER**

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**CERTIFICATE OF ENDORSEMENT:**

This Policy shall come into effect on the date of endorsement and shall cease only in the event where such changes/variations has been reduced to writing, approved by council and been signed by the Speaker. Unless in the event where any changes in any applicable Act, Legislation has jurisdiction to supersede.

  
**For and on behalf of Municipality**

28.05.2020  
**Date**

**FREE BASIC WATER**